

eenly sensitive and warmly affectionate; a leader when he chose to lead, but somewhat isolated and much given to reverie and castle building. According to a recollection of his "brother Ralph's he was fond of 'playing at arliarnent' in the holidays, and always reserved for himself the part of leader and spokesman of the Government, keeping the others, somewhat to their annoyance, in the cold shades of opposition. Of Benjamin's studies at Blackheath we know nothing at all. The only letter of his early years that has come down to us is severely iconic and gives us no assistance. It owes its preservation to the fact that the reverse of the paper on which it was written afforded space for one of his father's multi-irious notes, and it runs: 'Dear Mama, — I have arrived in B. D'Israeli.' From a letter by his grandfather which has also floated down, and which incidentally gives us a pleasant taste of the kind-hearted old man who wrote it, we hear of a serious illness by which the child was ricken in a summer vacation of this period. In August, 1816, Benjamin D'Israeli the elder writes to a relation: — 'We are now in great anxiety for poor little Ben, who has been very ill. . . . I am very much alarmed by the account I have from Isaac, and very much afraid. God preserve him and grant that he may get the better and recover!' 'Little Ben' recovered, but three months later his grandfather died.

His death proved in its indirect consequences an important event in the life of the child. In the first place, Isaac D'Israeli, grown more affluent now by the accession of his father's fortune, moved in the course

of the follow-g year from King's Road to 6, Bloomsbury Square,<sup>1</sup> better house with the further advantage of closer lighbourhood to the British Museum. Here he resided .1 twelve years later he left London for the coun-y and here Ms eldest son grew up to manhood. In .e religious history of the family the removal" of the

<sup>1</sup> This house also is marked by a tablet affixed by the London >tnty Council in accordance with, their excellent practice.

